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Cc: []

From: CN=Sheila Eckman/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US

Sent: Tue 8/21/2012 4:51:06 PM

Subject: AK mercury mine cleanup

[done some cleanup](#)

[website](#)

<http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/alaska-asks-epa-oversee-cleanup-abandoned-mercury-mine>

This is probably not useful as a case study - old mercury mine - but interesting that the state is apparently questioning the effectiveness of liners to contain waste. I do not know the particulars of this cleanup action but there is a long history with our regional Superfund program:

" BLM officials have held several village meetings in the region and have done some cleanup, according to the agency's website. That includes in 2002 smashing and burying buildings atop a large sheet of Hypalon, the same materials used in whitewater rafts. Chemicals were used to bind metals into equipment that was once used to extract the mercury, to reduce the threat of releases. Workers also cleaned oil-soaked soil at the old tank farm from 2003 to 2006. In recent years, they've tested levels of pollution in soil and elsewhere and have launched a study of pollution in local fish. State environmental regulators say it's not enough. They fear that burying the debris was a mistake because the thick plastic liner it's wrapped in will eventually erode. The Kuskokwim Corp., a consortium of 10 Alaska Native village corporations in the region, also worries that the BLM's past cleanup efforts will lead to more pollution."

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